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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.14 and Add.1)*]

53/15. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to promote international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Recalling further its resolutions 50/1 of 12 October 1995, 51/21 of 27 November 1996 and 52/19 of 21 November 1997, in which it urged the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and invited the relevant international financial institutions to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes and extend their assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives,

Recalling its resolution 52/169 M of 16 December 1997 on the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan,

Bearing in mind the progress achieved in the restructuring process of the Economic Cooperation Organization and considering that that organization should strive to play a more effective role, aimed at the all-round socio-economic development of its member States, which is consistent with the aims and objectives of the United Nations in promoting higher standards of living and conditions of economic and social progress and development,

Welcoming the recent developments concerning drug control activities in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, including the growing cooperation between that organization and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization at its eighth meeting to strengthen the monitoring of the international trade in precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Noting that the existing relationship between the Economic Cooperation Organization and various organizations of the United Nations system has contributed towards identifying and assisting regional programmes in advancing the socio-economic infrastructure of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and encouraging further coordinated utilization of available resources in promoting common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the Almaty Declaration[1] issued at the fifth meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held at Almaty on 10 and 11 May 1998, which re-emphasizes the importance of and the resolve of the States members of that organization to promote socio-economic development, enhanced trade and an integrated transport and communications network in their territories;

2. *Takes note also* of the Programme of Action of the Economic Cooperation Organization Decade of Transport and Communications (1998–2007), adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Transport and Communications of the Economic Cooperation Organization, held at Ashgabat in March 1998, and invites the specialized agencies and international financial institutions to give due consideration to the projects envisaged in the Programme of Action for assistance;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the signing, at Almaty in May 1998, by the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, of the main text of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement, aimed at facilitating the transit of goods and passengers, both within the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization and in neighbouring countries, and invites the relevant United Nations entities to extend all possible assistance in promoting the objectives of the Framework Agreement both within and outside the region;

4. *Appreciates* the entry into force of the agreements on transit trade and visa simplification procedures for businessmen in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which, in conjunction with the ongoing technical assistance of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development concerning trade efficiency and trade and transport facilitation, may contribute to enhancing intraregional and interregional trade;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/19,[2] expresses satisfaction at the enhanced pace of mutually beneficial interaction between the two organizations through cooperative arrangements entered into by the Economic Cooperation Organization with various organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and requests those organizations to maintain the existing momentum of contacts and cooperation;

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[1] A/52/962, annex.

[2] A/53/435.

6. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-fourth session, held in April 1998 to promote cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization in the identified areas of mutual concern, and invites the Commission to enhance the mutual collaboration with that organization, focusing on implementable projects in the priority areas of the Economic Cooperation Organization, namely, transport and communications, trade, investment, energy, environment, industry and agriculture, for the overall benefit of the entire region;

7. *Also welcomes* the signing by the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Development Programme of the project document on capacity-building of the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and encourages the Programme to continue to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional cooperation arrangements and create an enabling environment for sustainable development in the area;

8. *Further welcomes* the signing in December 1997 by the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a memorandum of understanding, and accordingly invites the Food and Agriculture Organization, within its current mandate and resources, to consult and cooperate with the Economic Cooperation Organization in order to attain the objectives of the latter in this field;

9. *Welcomes* the holding, at Baku in September 1998, of a joint Economic Cooperation Organization and United Nations Population Fund conference on the role of men in reproductive health and family planning, and calls upon the Fund and other relevant United Nations organizations, in cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization, to continue activities in the field of public health and social development in the future;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the relevant United Nations organizations, in pursuit of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, to render all possible assistance to the Economic Cooperation Organization in the implementation of its programmes and projects pertaining to the world drug problem;

11. *Invites* the relevant international financial institutions to extend their assistance, both technical and financial, as appropriate, to the regional development plans of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the priority areas;

12. *Welcomes* the decision of the Heads of Central Asian States on the creation of an international fund on saving the Aral Sea, and invites the relevant international organizations to extend financial and technical assistance towards rehabilitation programmes and projects, both ongoing and future, in certain parts of the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization that are suffering from ecological catastrophic influences, including the Aral Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site and the Sarez Lake basin;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

48th plenary meeting
29 October 1998